



# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## City of Maricopa Police Detective arrested following investigation by FBI, PCSO

**FLORENCE, AZ (7/2/13)** – Today, City of Maricopa Police Detective Jose Lizarraga, 45, was arrested for fraudulent schemes, forgery, tampering with public records, attempted money laundering, and theft.

Pinal County Attorney Lando Voyles requested the Pinal County Sheriff's Office initiate an investigation into Lizarraga. After becoming aware of various irregularities with the detective's activities while on duty, the Sheriff's Office decided to ask the Federal Bureau of Investigations for additional assistance. The City of Maricopa Police Department was made aware of the investigation and continues to fully cooperate.

As a result of the Pinal County Sheriff's Office and Federal Bureau of Investigation successfully executing a joint investigation, Lizarraga was taken into custody today and questioned regarding an alleged theft of \$1,300 while on duty on April 7, 2013. After the theft occurred, Lizarraga threw the money out of his department issued vehicle according to the Probable Cause statement.



After being questioned, Lizarraga was transported and processed into the Pinal County Sheriff's Office Adult Detention Center.

Due to family ties in Mexico, frequent travel to Mexico and firsthand knowledge of Border Patrol and law enforcement operations, including how to elude law enforcement, public records indicate he would likely flee, if released.

Lizarraga is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty and according to the Pinal County Attorney's Office, his initial appearance will be held on July 3, 2013 at 10:00 am.

FBI Special Agent in Charge Douglas G. Price, Phoenix Division stated, "Today's arrest is the result of a joint investigation involving the Pinal County Sheriff's Office, the Pinal County Attorney's Office, and the FBI. Whenever a law enforcement

officer allegedly uses their position for personal gain, it diminishes the public's trust for those who wear the badge proudly and serve the American people each day. The FBI is committed to holding public officials at all levels accountable for when they violate that trust."

Pinal County Attorney Lando Voyles thanked Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent in Charge Douglas Price and Pinal County Sheriff Babeu for their offices' coordinated efforts and investigative skills playing a crucial role in the ability to successfully investigate the allegations against Lizarraga and said, "The American people expect and deserve the highest of ethical standards from our law enforcement. When the public trust is broken, we all suffer and Pinal County serves as no safe harbor for corruption. With transparency and a dedication to finding justice for the people of Arizona, my office holds all individuals accountable for their crimes."

Pinal County Sheriff Babeu said, "No one, even a police officer, can ever be above the law. We in law enforcement hold a perishable trust with the public we serve and we must aggressively safeguard that trust by holding our own to the highest standards."

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